



# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## General Synod Elects Post President

The Rev. Avery D. Post was elected the fourth president of the United Church of Christ by the Eleventh General Synod meeting in Washington, D.C., July 1-5.

Dr. Post, currently Conference Minister of the Massachusetts UCC Conference, had no opposition for the office to which he was nominated by the General Synod Nominating Committee. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Evans, who will return to the position of Secretary.

Dr. Charles H. Lockyear was elected without opposition to another four year term as Director of Finance and Treasurer.

Milton S. Hurst, Dean of Student Affairs of Talladega College in Alabama, was chosen Moderator for the next two years. The Rev. Donna E. Schaper, Associate Pastor and Urban Minister, Tabernacle UCC, Philadelphia, Pa., and Ms. Dorothy B. Shimer, of Hawaii, a college professor of English and World and Oriental Literature, were elected Assistant Moderators.

A variety of important actions were taken by the delegates during the five-day meeting, including adoption of a national budget of \$10,000,000 for 1978 and of \$10,500,000 for 1979.

As could be expected, the reporting of the news media on the Synod highlighted the discussions and actions on the report and recommendations related to "Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study," and the resolution related to civil rights of homosexuals.

According to the most recent information received in the Southeast Conference Office, neither of these issues is in the top ten priorities of the UCC for the coming biennium.

No ranking apparently has been given to the priorities at this time, but the top ten being referred to the Advisory Commission on Priorities for development are in alphabetical order:

The Aging, The Church and the Handicapped, Criminal Justice and Penal Reform, Evangelism and the Search for Faith, Exploitive Broadcasting, Family Life, Human Rights, Local Church Vitality, Women in Church and Society, and World Hunger.

A series of recommendations on human sexuality was presented to the Synod. Some sparked spirited debate. Eventually



REV. AVERY D. POST

the recommendations were adopted, but opposition was greater than the 25 per cent needed to authorize the issuance of a minority report.

Both the Majority and the Minority Reports recommended that the Conferences, Associations, Instrumentalities and Congregations of the UCC study the report: "Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study." It will become available in the near future.

The Synod affirmed its commitment to the priorities voted at the 10th General Synod, particularly Christian Education, Evangelism, Stewardship, and the Vitality of the Local Church. The need for growth in membership was stressed, along with the importance of establishing new congregations in growing areas of the country.

Special attention was given to the needs and life of rural congregations as well as congregations caught up in the population shifts in metropolitan centers.

The actions needed to complete establishment of the Office for Church Life and Leadership were taken. The Council on American Indian Ministries was established along with guidelines for funding and clarifying its relationships to other UCC agencies.

The Rev. Annie R. Campbell, retired

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## FAIRFIELD GLADE

Fairfield Glade is a new Church being sponsored by three denominations: United Church of Christ, United Presbyterians, and United Methodist Church. Started by residents in the new retirement-recreation area eight miles North of Crossville, Tenn., two years ago, the Fairfield Glade Community Church now has 60 members, plus many others who worship there when visiting Fairfield Glade. They have called Rev. Marion Mansell of Rockwood, Tenn., as their pastor, and he began his ministry there July 1. Mr. Mansell is a minister of the United Presbyterian Church, having served as the Executive of the Synod of Mid-South for 35 years.

The Fairfield Glade Community Church has applied for membership in the Ala.-Tenn. Association and hopefully will be received into the September 17, 1977 meeting of that Association at Belvidere, Tenn.

Leading in the developing of the Church were Dr. Lee Gable and Dr. Wilford Scopes, both residents of the Retirement Community at Pleasant Hill, Tn. They were thanked by the Church at a recent reception and were given a painting of a Fairfield Glade scene done by one of the new members of the congregation.

Dr. Marion Mansell will be installed as pastor later this fall.

W.J. Andes

## SEC Churches Congratulated on OCWM Giving

The General Secretary of the Division of World Service of the United Church Board for World Ministries, Alfred C. Bartholomew, has written to Belvidere Tennessee, First United Church of Christ and to the Community Church of Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, to congratulate them for their generous offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing. Many persons in need around the world will be helped because of the generous, compassionate outreach of the members of these two congregations. Our

(Cont. on Page 2)

## Associations to Meet

Hardly has the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference adjourned, than the six Associations within the Conference prepare to meet. In 1977, they are as follows:

### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 17 - Ala.-Tenn. Association** at Belvidere United Church of Christ, Belvidere, Tn. beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Fairfield Glade Church, a new church sponsored by United Presbyterians, the United Methodists and the United Church of Christ and located 10 miles North of Crossville, Tn., will apply for membership in the Association. Dr. Marion Mansell, an United Presbyterian Minister, is pastor. He and several delegates will attend the Association.

### OCTOBER

**October 1, North Alabama Association** meets at 9:30 a.m., at the Congregational Church, Arley, Al. Guest speaker will be Dr. Walstein Snyder, Exec. Director of Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N.C. Dr. Snyder will also speak at the Huntsville United Church of Christ that Saturday night and preach at Caddo Church on Sunday, October 2.

**October 8 - South Ala.-N.W. Florida Association** meets at 9:30 a.m. at Blackwood Church, Headland, Al.

**October 15 - East Alabama Association** meets at 9:00 a.m. at Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, Ga. The Association will be discussing new ways of making OCWM giving more meaningful and the adoption of certain projects overseas and at home to personalize giving. The Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission is vital to the ongoing work and life of the church, with the over and above gifts going the second mile.

**October 16 - Central Alabama Association** will meet at 10:00 a.m. at East Tallassee Church, with worship at 11 a.m. Following lunch, the business session and Moments of Concern will be highlighted.

**October 22 - Georgia-South Carolina Association** meets at 9:00 a.m. in Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 220 Crawford Ave., Augusta, Ga., Rev. Morris Wood is the pastor. The Association will not only get acquainted with the Christian Church (Disciples), but will renew acquaintances with "Our Youth" in differing time segments: 1930-50; 1950-70; 1970-90, with young people of the churches envisioning the Church of and with the Future.

## SPOTLIGHT: Help Your Neighbors in Need

October 2, 1977, will find many congregations of the United Church of Christ joined in the fellowship of concern and of giving to the annual Neighbors in Need all-church offering. The offering this year will support these projects.

— \$90,000 will go to the Commission for Racial Justice for action against child abuse in our nation.

— \$150,000 will go to support the work of the U.C.C. Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), particularly for development of Indian leadership.

— \$90,000 will go to the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, for counseling teen-agers in pregnancy cases.

— \$70,000 will go to the Board for Homeland Ministries for food production for the needy in Puerto Rico.

If sufficient funds are received from the offering, further allocations will go to these projects and to two additional projects: to A.D. Publications Inc. for a printed ministry to hospitalized persons and to the Office of Communication for radio "spots" to help overcome prejudice against American Indians.

The Neighbors in Need offering is our denomination's annual appeal for support of programs in the U.S. among disadvantaged and minority people. It is channeled through existing homeland agencies of the United Church of Christ. Decisions on distribution of NIN funds are made each year by the Executive Council of the UCC.



General Synod speaker Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife, Brazil, spoke on human rights and the needs of the poor.

## Montgomery, First Has Retreat

First Congregational Christian Church (United Church of Christ), Montgomery, Al., had a Church Retreat at Camp Grandview, near Prattville, Al., on Sunday, August 14, 1977.

Theme, "Between Memory and Hope," was expressed in worship, group discussions, and recreation. Guest speakers were: Rev. Thomas E. Jordan, pastor of Lilly Baptist Church, and Dr. Joe Boyer, Auburn University.

Rev. George Hawkins is the pastor.

## OCWM . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

Board for World Ministries is able to respond on behalf of the United Church of Christ to appeals from Church World Service and churches throughout the world. Obviously, it is possible to respond to calls for help only as members of congregations of the United Church of Christ are equally inspired and desirous in reaching out and making the necessary contributions. Mr. Bartholomew expressed appreciation for the selfless concern with which these two congregations have made their contributions. The Board for World Ministries works as willing servants in trying to bring alive the partnership between local churches, such as Belvidere and Pleasant Hill, and the world.

## General Synod . . .

(Cont. from Page 1)

UCC minister now living in Winter Park, Fla., was recipient of the Antoinette Brown Award presented to outstanding women ministers along with the Rev. Davida Foy Crabtree of Connecticut. Annie was Minister for Christian Education of the Southeast Conference many years, as well as serving as parish minister in Alabama and Tennessee.

A resolution calling for conversations between Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ to explore possibility of Union between the two denominations was adopted with enthusiasm. Final business was completed late Tuesday night. Closing worship with communion brought the Synod to a fitting conclusion shortly after midnight.



# Camera Buffs, Lend Us Your Pictures

Do you own a camera? Have you taken any color slides or prints within the past two years? Have you attended the 1976 or 1977 Conference Annual Meeting of a Minister's Convocation during the past two years? If you can answer "yes" to all of the three questions above, the Southeast Conference needs your help!

The Southeast Conference is in the midst of making a filmstrip on its life and ministry. The filmstrip is projected for completion by the end of this year and will be made available with sound track to each church in the Conference. Our problem is that some of the events to be highlighted on the filmstrip have already passed us by. If they are to be represented pictorially in the filmstrip, we must have the help of all the camera buffs in the Conference churches.

What pictures do we need? We need pictures of:

— The 1976 Annual Meeting in Savannah and Midway, Ga. (any and all pictures will do)

— Ole Thermometer U. proceedings at any Conference Annual Meeting or Ministers' Convocation (regardless of how old the picture might be)

— Ministers' Convocation (regardless of how old the picture might be)

What kind of pictures do we need? The first criteria is that they be in color. Secondly, we would prefer 35mm slides if you have them. If you don't have slides, color prints would do beautifully, but please send the negative along with the picture. If you can't find the negative, please send along the color print.

Where are the pictures to be sent? Please forward the pictures to: Rev. Stephen Gray, 700 Bresslyn Rd., Nashville, Tn. 37205.

Any pictures that you can forward will be very greatly appreciated.

## A NEW RECORD

Six minutes! That was the length of the sermon preached by Dr. David Beebe of Chattanooga Pilgrim Church on Sunday, May 29. Confirmation, baptism and the reception of new members were all a part of the May 29 worship service and help to explain Dr. Beebe's hermeneutical brevity.

# Morgan-Scott Project Lists Ways to Help

If you are looking for mission projects for your Youth Group, Women's or Men's groups or for your church as a whole, the Morgan-Scott Project would certainly appreciate your support. An inter-denominational effort in which the United Church of Christ plays an integral part, the Morgan-Scott Project has a unique ministry among the peoples of Morgan and Scott Counties, Tennessee, providing and enabling basic human services such as medical care, dental care, recreation programs, programs for the aged, special education classes and innumerable other services. These efforts have been appreciated in the two county area where unemployment continues to fluctuate between 50 and 70 percent.

How can your church help? Rev. Randy Gehres, UCC minister, has provided the following suggestions:

1. Contributing to the Mission Fund. These monies are used to help unemployed families buy coal for heat, pay electric bills and medical expenses and purchase food in emergency situations. Donations may be designated or their use may be left to the discretion of Rev. Gehres and other Morgan-Scott directors.

2. Helping supply emergency fuel. Winter brings many requests. You can donate to the Mission Fund for this purpose or send a woodcutting delegation to Morgan or Scott Counties and create a woodpile!

3. Sharing with victims of fires. Many houses and trailers burn in the winter in the mountains, usually without insurance. Donations of blankets, cooking utensils, basic furniture can be stockpiled to meet the need of families who have lost everything.

4. Sending new toys, games, and clothing for the Christmas Store. Last year, 375 children in 75 low-income families were served by the Christmas Store. Families who would otherwise share no Christmas gifts are recommended to the Christmas Store by churches and schools. Enough items were donated last year that parents could choose one piece of clothing and one toy for each child. Patrons pay a small price or sign an IOU for the items so that they can enjoy some pride in the process; money collected is returned to the Mission

# The Southeast News: YOUR NEWSPAPER

Did you ever wonder how we gather stories, pictures and news items for the "Southeast News?" Unlike the New York Times or the Washington Post, we do not have reporters available to "hunt out the stories." Rather, we depend on you. And by "you," we mean not only ministers but especially laypersons in each and every one of our Conference churches.

Has something newsworthy happened in your congregation that you would like to share with the rest of the Conference? Why not write it down. Don't worry about your English: almost all stories are written or rewritten by the editor. Just make sure you answer the questions of: who, what, when, where and how. Names are always helpful and your feelings about the event are always helpful.

Can you include a picture along with the story? We almost always print all pictures that we receive. About pictures, here are a few hints: all pictures must be black and white; buildings are nice, but people are even better, especially people's faces; remember to caption the picture identifying who the people are, what the building is, etc.

Don't be shy! Tell us and show us what your church is doing. Please address all information to: Dr. W.J. Andes, Southeast Conference Office, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30359. And please mark "Southeast News" on the envelope and contents.

Fund. Items particularly needed include: sports equipment, adolescent clothing, baby clothes, and educational toys. Boxed gifts (unwrapped) or money should be received by the Project (Deer Lodge, Tn. 37726) by December 12.

5. Inquiring about the Fund for Humanity — a new project for revitalizing old and building new housing for low income people through interest free loans.

For further information, write to Rev. Randy Gehres, Morgan-Scott Project, Deer Lodge, Tn. 37726.

Convalescence is that difficult time when you are better than you were but still not as well as you were before you were as sick as you are now.

# Georgia Youth Empowerment Team Completes Work

The Georgia Youth Empowerment Team project has come to a close after a highly successful fifteen-month operation. The twenty-four persons who participated in and were responsible for the project met in Atlanta on August 11 to evaluate and celebrate the project. The group was composed of the Team members, Georgia interchurch executives, pastors, youth and youth advisors from local churches and judicatory representatives of the Episcopalean, Christian (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ.

Aimed at revitalizing and empowering young people in their participation in and through their local churches, the Georgia Youth Empowerment Team also provided leadership training to empower young people to more fully live and share their Christian convictions.

Following an initial pilot project in Seattle, Washington, which resulted in a book entitled *Journeys Without Maps*, Georgia was selected as the second site for the youth empowerment program. After selection and training of a Team of young people under the supervision of Mr. Fred Harper, three target areas within the state were chosen and the Team began its work which was to continue through the next 15 months. Funded through the Christian (Disciples) Church, Episcopalean Church and UCC, the cost of the effort was some \$25,000.

## It Is Difficult

From many corners of the Southeast Conference come concerned voices about Youth Involvement within the life of the church. Recently, the Commission on Christian Education of the Conference accepted the offer of Jeff Hipsher, Youth Intern of the Board for Homeland Ministries, to meet not only with the Georgia Youth Empowerment Team but also to meet with Southeast Conference Youth Core Ministry Leadership.

Jeff Hipsher summed up the first weekend's experiences: "All of us together, young and old, are about the faith of (not about) a crucified and risen Lord. A total ministry reflects to others the "Oneness" of that faith .... Being wanted, and therefore involving our/myself in certain aspects of the institutional church, has helped us/me see/feel things we/I wish to share with others .... We have joined to this end that experiences allow exchanges of ideas, more total involvement in the life and mission of our church, development of a new and different closeness to God, and an unique opportunity to share all of the above with our fellow human beings."

In evaluating the project, it was pointed out that identification with neighboring churches and denominations was directly related to a growing sense of brotherhood among young people. By encouraging a network of relationships between the youth of different churches, ideas and encouragement could be shared: a church with a strong youth group would help a church that had reached the point of discouragement.

In addition, the Youth Empowerment Team noted other achievements in (1) teaching planning and leadership skills, (2) enabling understanding of how a church is organized and how it works, (3) freeing young persons to feel their participation is needed and can be used, (4) helping young persons to locate and use resource materials in the local church setting, and (5) fostering an ecumenical spirit that revealed the basic similarities among all the churches that were visited.

Thanks were expressed to Team members Cassandra Young and Carol Blakely as well as to Rev. Jackson Braddy, Howard Jason and George Bennett without whose help such a program would not have been possible.

While completed, the efforts initiated by the Georgia YET will continue in the Ga.-S.C. Association of the UCC through the efforts of Faya Donaldson, Molbro Roberts and Linda Hawkins. Trudi Sanford is the advisor.

## General Synod Filmstrip Available

Whether you attended the Eleventh General Synod last July in Washington, D. C., or not, you will want to see "Because We Remember," a color filmstrip with record produced by the Office for Audio-Visuals of the United Church of Christ to help you and the members of your congregation to understand the significance of the Eleventh General Synod as a celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ.

Copies may be obtained from the Office for Audio-Visuals, UCC, 1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. The cost is \$15 per copy plus postage, unless payment is enclosed with your order.

## Conference Seminar on Church Empowerment Planned

The second in a series of Southeast Conference seminars entitled, "Empowering the Church in Third Century America" will be held at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham beginning on Friday evening, October 28 through Sunday noon, October 30.

The faculty will include the Rev. Dr. Howard E. Spragg, Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, the Rev. Myles H. Walburn, Treasurer of the United Church Board for World Ministries, the Rev. David Langerhans, Secretary for Christian Enlistment and Southern Regional Secretary for the Stewardship Council, the Rev. George Siudy Jr., Secretary for Stewardship Education, also of the Stewardship Council, the Rev. Dr. William J. Andes, Conference Minister and the Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, Associate Conference Minister, Southern Alabama. The Rev. Henry W. Tuttle, Pastor of Pilgrim Church Birmingham will act as Dean.

Ministers and laypersons from a number of selected churches throughout the Conference, depending upon their geographical location, will be in attendance for an intensive weekend of study sessions involving home and foreign missions, stewardship both in the local church and the Conference, churchmanship and the pastor's role in promotion. There will also be ample opportunity for fellowship and friendship building and a great service on Sunday morning with Dr. Spragg bringing the message.

The seminar is a joint venture of your Conference Commission on Outreach and the national instrumentalities represented.

## UNIQUE CEREMONY FOR BIRMINGHAM PASTOR

Rev. Hank Tuttle, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Birmingham performed a once-in-a-lifetime wedding this past August 12: he married two of his daughters in a unique double-ring ceremony. Married were Cheryl Tuttle to John Wilson and Dianne Tuttle to Kenneth Vines. The Wilsons are now residing in Athens, Alabama; the Vines in Vestavia, a suburb of Birmingham. The double-ring ceremony was performed at Pilgrim Church.



# Assistance Given in Johnstown Flood

The new domestic Disaster response unit of Church World Service was tested out when aid was given in the Johnstown, Pa. flood in July. Church efforts were coordinated — 2,000 blankets, 28,800 water purification tablets, 2500 Health Kits, 500 School Kits, 270 gals. of liquid detergent were sent, according to Al Bartholomew of the Division of World Service of the United Church Board for World Ministries.

Penn West Conference has set up volunteer work camps at the Conference campsite and moved into Johnstown to help with the drudgery of digging out mud and sorting through debris for any possessions which can be recovered. St. John's UCC had ten feet of water in the Church. Similar destruction was in St. Paul's Church. Efforts of all volunteers have been coordinated.

It is necessary to raise funds immediately — \$31,500 is needed now. More will be needed after the tumult and the shouting die.

## Pictorial Church Directories A BOON OR A BILK?

Pictorial Church Directories can be a helpful, "ready resource" to local churches, but churches must beware of being "bilked" by disreputable printers.

A six-month survey of United Church of Christ local churches, Conferences and the companies which produce pictorial church directories offers advice on how to select a reliable vendor, how to organize a church to produce the directory and how much the church should expect to pay.

Directory companies make their profit on sales of portraits of families, not on the publication itself, the survey says. The report says that fact makes pictorial directories within the budget of small churches, but it is also a factor in disputes over the production.

Another common grievance that churches have with vendors, the report says, is that some companies do not deliver the directories when they promise. The report states that churches are sometimes at fault and advises strict adherence to a prearranged schedule.

For a copy of the report, send \$1 to Office of Communication, 289 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10010.

# NEWS BRIEFS

Bonanza United Church of Christ, near Jonesboro, Ga., has planned its Third Annual Revival the week of Sept. 19-23, with the theme, "Let Us Walk Together." Five dynamic speakers will share in bringing messages. Franklin Thomas, Past Moderator of Southeast Conference, will lead a "Music Worship" on Wednesday night, and the Friday evening service will be preceded by a covered dish supper at 6 p.m.

The pastor of Bonanza Church, Rev. Floyd Carmack, is starting a beginning Chancel Choir for boys and girls ages 3-7 years. Practice will be Sunday mornings. Teenagers will assist.

Our congratulations and best wishes to the Chairperson of the Uplands Board of Directors, nee Bette Evans. She was married in the Crossville UCC on July 16, at 5 p.m. to Mr. James Andrew Halverstadt of Nashville. He was a missionary in Zaire.

Vacation Bible Camp was held at Camp Calvin, August 8-12. More than 100 people attended.

Mrs. Jettie Logan, Tallassee, Ala., was chosen for the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame Award, and her name is listed in the Hall of Fame in Everett's, Wash. Mrs. Logan is known throughout the country for the work she has done with 65 Plus Club of Tallassee, Ala.

Preston Ratliff, foster son of Rev. Bob Butziger (Morgan-Scott Project), was killed in an automobile wreck in Arizona. Funeral was held at Deer Lodge, Tn., July 14.

Members of the Bethany Congregational United Church of Christ in Thomasville, Ga., dedicated new pews for the Church at a special service on June 19, 1977. Elder Juanita Jackson was leader.

Antioch Church at Andalusia, Al., is carrying on the work of the congregation, in spite of being without a pastor. Sunday services, church school, prayer meeting each week and Ladies' Fellowship monthly are continuing. The Homecoming service was held in July, with Rev. Warren Blankenhorn preaching. Bible School was held with the Nazarene Church.

— Bernice Carter

## Thomasville, Bethany Lose Two Outstanding Members

Mrs. Mosie T. Flipper of Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Ga., died on June 8, 1977. Mrs. Flipper was born July 6, 1878, in Mitchell County, Ga. She became affiliated with Bethany Church in her early years and gave God her life in the service of the church and community in which she lived. She graduated from Allen Normal School in Thomasville in 1899. She married Festus Flipper in 1929. For many years Mrs. Flipper was active in the Convention of the South and later in the Southeast Convention. She will be long remembered for her faithfulness to the work of the Lord.

Elder John H. Redding of Bethany Congregational Church in Thomasville, Georgia died in Thomasville and was buried on Thursday, June 23, 1977. Mr. Redding was born on May 2, 1902, in Thomasville. He graduated from Allen Normal High School and attended Fessingen Academy in Martin, Florida.

He studied voice under Mr. Bowie and organ under Mr. Hoskins of Washington, D.C. He trained choruses and directed pageants throughout the Eastern section of the United States for the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs. He was Director of a Community Center in Utica, New York, for several years. He married Ida Marie Brown in 1945. His friends will long appreciate his faithful service to the Church.

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## From St. John's Cullman NEWSLETTER

I received a "Letter from Parson Jones" that should help many of our people. Let me share it with you.

"Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty porely. I don't reckon I oughta grumble cause I had a bunch of sick members and when you add to that all my shut-ins, we don't have a site of pew fillers. I went ahead and preached to what I had. Only thing was the echo in the near empty church hurt my ears. My madam said I needed to get out and ride awhile and let the fresh air clear my head. It done the trick. Our little ride not only cleared my head, it made me feel right good inside. What I saw made me rejoice. I saw miracle after miracle.

Ole Hezekiah who had been deathly sick that very morning had roused up and was riding down the highway with his fishing poles.

Now there was Rufe's brother. Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in such a fowl shape that they was afraid a operation was gonna be necessary. Well, we remembered him in our prayers and lo and behold at two o'clock there he stood at the driving range hitting golf balls.

All told, about 20 of my sick folks had roused up and was taking nourishment in one form or another. But what made me really happy was to see so many of my "shut-ins" out riding around and enjoying the world. Hezekiah's paw, who don't attend church cause he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get outa the house, was in town shopping. Ellie Nickel Singer's sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys, stood in line two hours to get into the show.

Yes sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I saw. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my sick folks being healed and my shut-ins being set free. I just hope they don't overdo themselves before next Sunday and have a relapse. I gotta go now and play with my smallest youngun. He is gonna be the farmer and I'm gonna be the goat. Tin cans will be easy to eat after what I've swallowed."

—Copied

## HOWARD ANDERSON (Buck) KESTER

### 1905-1977

Dr. Howard Anderson Kester, minister of the United Church of Christ, and poor people's advocate, died July 12, in an Asheville hospital. A resident of Black Mountain, N.C., he had served as dean of students and teacher at Montreat-Anderson College.

Born in Martinsville, Va., Kester graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and used the Gospel of John as his steering wheel for a life of fighting injustices against Southern tenant farmers and other poor people.

"During more than four decades of sometimes dangerous struggles for the poor, he walked the woods with his good friend Dr. George Washington Carver, got financial help for his Southern work from theologian Reinhold Niebuhr and heard young Martin Luther King Jr. plead for a nonviolent fight for civil rights in 1957." (Charlotte Observer)

Kester was said to have accepted the teachings of Jesus, in toto in his work for racial and economic equality in the South. A pioneer in fighting injustices since his student days in the 1920's, his civil rights work included: support for striking coal miners in W. Virginia (which got him dismissed from the Presbyterian Church he was serving as student pastor); gathering food and clothes for striking coal miners at Wilder, Tenn.; organization of the Socialist Party in Nashville; work with Southern Tenant Farmers Union, and investigations of Southern lynchings for the NAACP.

His most dramatic work was perhaps with the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in Arkansas, the first effort by black and white tenant farmers, sharecroppers and day laborers to break exploitation by landowners. Kester and other union leaders were chased out of the meeting by gun-toting landowners and law officers. He was literally driven out of Arkansas and narrowly talked his way out of a lynching while a man prepared a noose over a tree limb.

Kester had his first wife, Alice, with him through most of his work including a stint for his Congregational Church helping

## Dr. Joseph N. Gayles New Talladega President

On April 15, 1977, the Board of Trustees of Talladega College selected Dr. Joseph N. Gayles as president of Talladega College. Attorney Arthur Shores, Chairman of the Board, said he felt the Board "made a wise choice" when they selected Dr. Gayles as president.

Academically, Dr. Gayles is superbly qualified to assume leadership of Talladega College. He received his A.B. degree (summa cum laude) from Dillard University in New Orleans, La., his PhD. in chemistry from Brown University in Providence, R.I. In 1965, Dr. Gayles was post doctoral associate in Quantum Chemistry, Bio-physics and Solid State Physics at the University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden.

Gayles' progressive ideals are reflected in his heterogeneous philosophy of education. For instance, in his commencement address at Talladega College on May 15, 1977, he contended that since the elimination of segregation in the nation's colleges and universities, the move toward integration is "marked by a one-way arrow." Blacks "rush to newly opened doors, while most white youths travel the same route they have travelled for centuries." On Gayles' view, "too many white students are missing out on the fine academic experience Talladega offers."

The closing remarks of Gayles' commencement address support Arthur Shores' statement that the Board of Trustees made a wise choice when they selected Dr. Gayles. Those remarks are: "May the Constitution of the United States go with you; the Declaration of Independence stand by you; the Bill of Rights protect you; and may your own dreams be your only boundaries henceforth and forever."

(THE TALLADEGAN, 7/77)

European refugees resettle in this country during World War II.

Alice died in 1970. Last January, he married Elizabeth Moore Kester, sister of Alice Kester's brother and the couple's friend for 50 years. Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, a sister, a brother, and two stepdaughters.